

ERRONEA CAURICA.

Cypraca caurica Linne. Syst. Nat., 1758, xth ed., p. 723. No locality.

The mantle of this animal was a milky-white, mottled closely with brownish grey with a number of fairly thick processes or papillae, mostly branched. The foot was a transparent milky-white, mottled with dark grey, giving a "pepper and salt" effect, and was extended as the animal moved, the underneath being transparent white. Siphon orange-pink, tentacles yellow and the eyes visible as mere black pin-spots.

Departing from this most interesting family, I would like to describe the lovely animal of *Voluta (Amoria) caroli* Iredale, also collected alive by me on this same collecting holiday.

The foot is opaque milky-cream and is well extended, about half an inch on either side and one and a half inches posteriorly when the animal crawls. This foot is brilliantly striped with rufous-tan on the dorsal surface. The underfoot is deep cream, the siphon tan. The tentacles are a light tan and the eyes are very tiny and a deep cream in colour.

When the animal was withdrawn into the shell, the aperture was filled with a most attractive mass of tan and cream stripes.

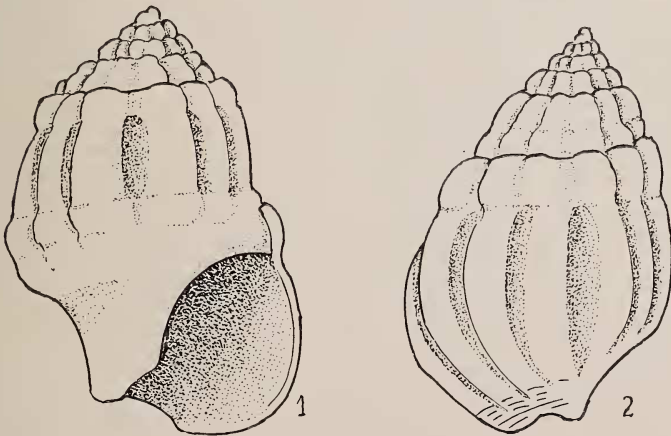
There is a great beauty in shells and added beauty in their animals. Truly they are one of the glories of nature.

A New Genus of the Nassariidae

By C. F. AND J. LASERON.

AUSTRONASSARIA SIMPLEX, gen. et sp. nov.

An extreme or aberrant form of the Nassariidae characterized by a shell nearly cylindrical in mid-section, surmounted by a low, broadly conical spire of three whorls. The protoconch is small, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ whorls, inflated, smooth, white and vitreous. Early whorls white, the body-whorl pale yellow with ochre in the interstices of the axial ribs.



Body-whorl nearly cylindrical above, swollen and rounded below. Sculpture of a few broad axial ribs, 12 to the whorl, separated by shallow interstices, and swelling above into broad, low bosses at the suture, and similarly below at the periphery. The whole of the base smooth and highly polished. Aperture relatively small, round, the outer margin thickened, smooth, inner margin regularly arcuate, also

smooth. Columella broad and smooth, obliquely arcuate adjoining the aperture. Canal broad, rounded, shallow and open. Length 10 mm., width 6.5 mm.

Locality.—6.9 fathoms, Sow and Pigs Reef, Port Jackson, New South Wales.

Remarks.—The unique and extraordinary form of this shell at first sight suggested some abnormality, and it was not until a second specimen was procured from the Queensland coast that the authors were satisfied that the novelty is definitely constant. The type was collected from material dredged by the "Triton" from the west channel at Sow and Pigs Reef, and there is no certainty of the depth below the harbour bed at which it was procured. This locality is very close to the east channel, where previous dredgings by the "Triton" procured so many strange, exotic molluscan types, some of which appear to be definitely extinct.

The type has been presented to the Australian Museum.

Notes on Australian Shells

No. 1

By LEE WOOLACOTT.

Family CONIDAE.

Genus VIRROCONUS Iredale, 1930.

VIRROCONUS IMPERATOR, *sp. nov.*

(Figure 3)

After much checking of literature and the study of a great number of cone shells, I have decided that the specimen here described is sufficiently distinct from any other cone to merit a name of its own. It is a very striking shell in appearance and would appear to have but one other which resembles it in any way, this is *Conus roseus* Lamarck, a West Indian Shell. As *roseus* of Lamarck has disappeared in the synonymy of *Conus regius cardinalis* Hwass, 1792 (in Bruguiere (see Clench, 1942) and as the new species in no way resembles *Conus regius*, or any varieties of *regius*, it is obvious that though they may appear similar in literature, they are not so in fact.

The shell is of medium size, 40 mm. high by 25 mm. wide at the periphery. Spire 8 mm. high, consisting of 8 whorls and 2-whorled protoconch. The body-whorl is encircled by 22 to 30 small ridges which are about 1 mm. apart. In some instances these ridges are absent towards the top of the body whorl, but in all cases they become stronger and more regular basally. The spiral ridge-ribbing is a very important diagnostic feature of this species and so fuller details follow. Towards the top of the body-whorl these ridges are usually pale cream or a very pale salmon colour, and on rare occasions, a very light mauve. All these spiral ridges above the median light band are of pastel tints and carry delicate, small chestnut spotting. Occasionally this spotting is irregular in shape and size, but it increases in frequency towards the base and in many cases the spots run together into interrupted chestnut lines which become purple-black below the median light band. The ground colour of the shell is a very distinctive pinkish-brown, most evident in slightly worn specimens. The ground colour deepens through red-brown to purple-black at the base, and at no period is there any touch of yellow. The yellow-browns of *Virroconus lividus* and its near relations separate them into quite a different colour group. The median light coloured band is about 2/10 in. wide, of a bluish-mauve or very light salmon-pink. The spire is neat, of 8